of the species, and to correlate systematic relationships with geographical distribution. He believes that this evolution has proceeded by "a combination of orthogenetic and adaptive modifications which have led to various parallel series in this family."

The publication of this volume coincides with Dr. Boulenger's retirement from the service of the Natural History Museum, and all zoologists must regret that the most distinguished of living herpetologists is no longer officially connected with the unrivalled collection which he has done so much to build up.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

May 5th, 1920.—Mr. G. W. Lamplugh, F.R.S., Vice-President, in the Chair.

The following communication was read:—

'A Natural "Eolith" Factory beneath the Thanet Sand.' By Samuel Hazzledine Warren, F.G.S.

The paper describes a section in the Bullhead Bed at Grays, where the conditions have been favourable for the chipping of the flints by subsoil pressure. There is evidence of extensive solution of the Chalk beneath the Tertiary deposits, and the differential movements thus brought about have occasioned much slickensiding, and remarkable effects in the chipping of the flints.

In the Author's opinion the section affords the most complete and conclusive evidence hitherto obtained in support of the theory of the origin of the supposed Eolithic implements by purely natural agencies. There are not only the simpler Kentish types, such as notches, bowscrapers, and the like, but also the larger and more advanced forms of rostro-carinates which are characteristic of the sub-Crag detritus-bed. Careful digging enables the pressure-points of one stone against another and the resultant chipping effects to be studied in detail; and in many instances the flakes removed can be recovered and replaced.

A few examples are more than merely Eolithic in character. If such exceptional examples were removed from their associates, and also from the evidences of the geological forces to which they have been exposed, no investigator could be blamed for accepting them without question as of Mousterian workmanship. Individual specimens may often deceive: in order to distinguish a geological deposit of chipped flints from the débris of a prehistoric chipping-floor, it is necessary to base one's judgment upon fairly representative groups, and also to take into consideration the circumstances in which they have been discovered.